

### Claim Amendments

Please amend the claims to be as follows.

Claims 1-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A method of status reporting for a computer system configured as a node of a cluster of interconnected computer systems that is used as a single computing unit, the method comprising applying a set of rules to determine current multi-state status of the node, wherein states of the multi-state status includes a good state, a bad state, and at least one degraded state,

wherein the good state requires that both an application and an operating system report an up status and that no severe or critical chassis codes are received from the computer system.

wherein the bad state requires that either an application or an operating system report a down status, or a critical chassis code is received from the computer system, and

wherein a degraded state requires that either the computer system loses greater than a predetermined percentage of performance, or a severe chassis code is received from the computer system.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
writing the multi-state status of the node to a first register.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:  
driving the multi-state status from the first register to a next node via a point-to-point communications path.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:  
receiving multi-state status from another node; and  
writing the multi-state status from the other node to a second register.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
  - reading the statuses from the first and second registers; and
  - taking action to maintain high availability of the cluster based on the statuses read.
14. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the status writable into the second register includes a no signal state.
15. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the multi-state status of the node includes multiple levels of degradation.
16. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the multi-state status from the other node includes multiple levels of degradation.
17. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the set of rules includes a rule such that receipt of a chassis code of a critical level results in the bad state and another rule such that receipt of a chassis code of a level below critical results in a degraded state.

Claims 18-21. (canceled)